ADDRESS

OF THE DEWAN

TO THE

MYSORE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

(DASARA SESSION)

25th October 1920.

PART I.

Preliminary.

GENTLEMEN,

By command of His Highness the Maharaja I rise to welcome you to the thirty-seventh Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly and to place before you a brief statement of the more important facts connected with the administration of the State during the past year.

His Highness the Yuvaraja's tour in Europe.

2. Before the formal commencement of proceedings I have much pleasure in communicating to you the joyful news that His Highness the Yuvaraja will arrive in Mysore from his European tour in the second week of next month. This is the second time His Highness has travelled in Europe in order to obtain an insight into the institutions and activities of the progressive countries of the West. The first visit was undertaken in 1913, before the War, and it was natural that His Highness should, after the close of the mighty struggle, desire to study at first hand the problems of re-construction now engaging the attention of the statesmen in Europe. From all accounts we have received, we learn His Highness had unique opportunities of acquainting himself with all the movements now being initiated in the West for the improvement of the economic and social well-being of the people and it is hardly necessary to say he has taken full advantage of them. He has everywhere been received with the courtesy due to his high station in life and his personality. I have no doubt you will wish me to extend to our beloved Yuvaraja a most loyal and enthusiastic welcome on his home-coming after the completion of his European tour.

Seasonal Conditions.

3. The rainfall during 1919 exceeded the normal average and was also timely and well-distributed. And in consequence, there was a large increase in the extent of cultivation of both wet and dry crops as compared with the previous year, the average outturn ranging from 8 to 12 annas generally. The total area under paddy, in 1919-20, was 769,253 acres, and under ragi, 2,238,228 acres against 634,456 acres under paddy and 1,966,411 acres under ragi, in 1918-19.

But the *mungar* rains of the current year proved very deficient and agricultural operations have consequently been greatly delayed. It is reported that there has been some shrinkage in the areas under *mungar* crops in many of the maidan taluks and that the sowing of ragi was not completed in many places till late in the season. The recent rains, however, which have fallen generally all over the State, have infused confidence and the indications are all in favour of a good harvest and a prosperous year.

The Food Situation.

4. The prices of food grains have practically remained at the high level at which they stood when we last met during the Birthday Session. In consequence of the depleted condition of our stocks, the harvest of 1919 had not much effect on prices and it was necessary, in the interests of our people, to take measures to prevent the prices soaring higher by continuing Government control which has been retained up to the present time. In regard to pulses and other articles, however, the seasonal conditions have permitted of our withdrawing control. Black-gram, green-gram, thuvar-dhall, chillies, grass and fodder have been removed from the controlled list since November 1919. The control over kerosene oil was also removed on the assurance of the oil companies that adequate supplies would be forthcoming.

The prohibition of the export of controlled commodities, either by rail or by road, except under permission, still continues and the restriction on the movement of food grains in the ten-mile belt along the border has quite recently been modified. Government have sanctioned the removal of this restriction except along the Bombay frontier where it has to be maintained to prevent surreptitious export on account of the wide divergence of prices across the border. The width of the controlled area has, however, been reduced to 5 miles.

Large imports of rice also continued during the year to replenish stocks in deficient localities and generally to check profiteering. Thirty-one thousand and eight hundred tons of rice valued at a little over 53 lakhs

of rupees were imported from Burma. Stocks from Madras were obtained under a system of reciprocal interchange until this arrangement lapsed automatically in consequence of the removal of inter-provincial control by the Government of India. Subsequent to this period the export of minimum stocks has been allowed by the Director of Civil Supplies. The total export of food grains by road and by rail to the Madras Presidency was 7,883 tons against 5,146 tons obtained by us from that province. Before I leave this subject, I should like to make it clear that Government do not propose to withdraw control until normal conditions are restored.

1920-40 Public Loan.

5. In my Address to the last Birthday Session of the Assembly I mentioned that it had been decided to float a public loan in the current year for financing our productive public works now in progress. I said it was the especial desire of His Highness the Maharaja that the loan should be largely, if not wholly, subscribed for within the State itself although arrangements would be made, with the permission of the Government of India, to throw it open to subscribers in British India. In appealing for public support to the loan I expressed the hope that it would prove popular and afford the means of a safe investment to the savings of our people. I am glad to be able to state that my hope has been more than fulfilled. The amount of the loan was fixed at Rs. 100 lakhs and the terms of the issue were announced towards the close of June last. The loan list was kept open for three months, from 1st July to 30th September, and within this period the loan was largely over-subscribed and applications were received for more than 136 lakhs. The contributions by subscribers within the State exceeded Rs. 120 lakhs and His Highness the Maharaja is much pleased to find that the response to the loan by the public in Mysore was so hearty and substantial. I should like to acknowledge in this connection, the active help which the Bank of Mysore gave to Government in placing the loan on the market. The total amount of subscriptions by and through the Bank exceeded Rs. 53 lakhs.

The Past Year's Administration.

Representative Institutions.

The Legislative Council.

6. In accordance with the announcement made last year, the Legislative Council was reconstituted, the total number of members being raised from 21 to 30, of whom

four are elected by the Representative Assembly, eight by direct election by the voters to the Assembly in the districts, and one by the Mysore University. Of the total number of members on the Council at present, 18 are non-officials and 12 officials. The Legislative Council was given the privilege of returning two members, one by election and another by nomination, to the Finance Committee.

Four meetings of the Council were held during the year and 13 measures passed into law.

The Representative Assembly.

7. The term of office of the members deputed by municipal councils, local boards and recognized associations, was made to coincide with that of the members returned from the taluk electorates, as the present period, *viz.*, one year, was found far too short to permit of effective work by any member and also to avoid re-elections to the Legislative Council in the Representative Assembly should any such member have been elected by the Assembly. Provision has also been made for bye-elections in the case of vacancies. The qualification of voters has also been clearly defined and retired or pensioned officers of the Mysore State Troops have been given the privilege to vote for members as well as to stand for election.

The Economic Conference.

8. The entire Economic Conference organization was re-constituted with effect from 1st January 1920. The establishments of the three Boards under the Conference were reduced to suit new conditions, and detailed instructions were issued regarding the work to be carried on in the districts. In place of the District Economic Superintendents, Secretaries have been sanctioned to the District Boards for carrying out economic work. The English and Kannada editions of the *Mysore Economic Journal* were regularly published. The Kannada edition has since been transferred to private agency. It has also been decided to arrange for the publication of the English edition by private enterprise from January next.

The eleventh session of the Mysore Economic Conference was held at Mysore in June last, and 46 subjects were considered.

Finance.

9. I have fully dealt with the finances of the State in my last Birthday Address and shall therefore be brief on that topic here.

The revised estimates for the year which closed with June 1920 and the budget estimates for 1920-21, were considered at the last session of the Representative Assembly on the 27th and 29th May last and by the Legislative Council on the 15th and 16th June last. The revised estimates are for a total revenue of Rs. 3,29,02,000 and a total expenditure of Rs. 3,33,73,000 resulting in a deficit of Rs. 4,71,000.

The current year's budget anticipates a total revenue of Rs. 3,15,15,000 and a total expenditure of Rs. 3,24,66,000.

10. As announced during the consideration of the budget at the last session, Government have sanctioned increased allowances to their subordinate employees on account of the prevailing high prices with effect from 1st July 1920. An increase ranging from Rs. 4 to Rs. 7 per month, depending upon salary, has been granted to those in inferior service with a minimum of Rs. 12 in Bangalore and Mysore Cities and Rs. 10 in other places, and the employees in superior service get an enhancement of Rs. 8 per month for salaries up to Rs. 19 and of Rs. 10 for salaries between Rs. 20 and Rs. 100. It is estimated that these allowances involve an extra expenditure of Rs. 24 lakhs against Rs. 20 lakhs provided in the budget.

11. In my Address at the last Birthday Session I had stated that the Finance Committee would be requested to scrutinize the expenditure on Government establishments and submit their recommendations as to the retrenchments which might be effected without impairing the efficiency of the administration. They have just submitted the first instalment of their proposals which will be very carefully considered by Government. The problem of re-adjusting public expenditure, with a view to obtain all the economy possible without at the same time lowering the standard of our administration, is both a difficult and complicated task, but I hope the administrative measures already sanctioned or referred to in this Address will have given you a sufficient assurance that Government will not allow the difficulties in their path to deter them from making an earnest and serious endeavour to effect as much economy as possible in the expenditure on establishments. I hope to be able to make a fuller statement on this subject when we meet again during the next Birthday Session.

Revenue Departments.

Land Revenue.

12. The adverse seasonal conditions of 1918-19 resulted in large arrears of land revenue, *viz.*, Rs. 20,77,849,

being left uncollected at the end of the year, so that, inclusive of the current demand for 1919-20, the amount to be collected under this head during the current year was Rs. 1,30,43,967. Owing to the favourable seasonal conditions and the greater attention bestowed on collection work by the revenue officers, the collection during the current year reached the record figure of Rs. 1,18,73,104 as against Rs. 1,06,50,000 in the previous year, the total realizations amounting to 91 per cent of the entire demand as against 83 per cent in 1918-19.

13. The Vani Vilas Sagara Reservoir filled for the first time during the year and discharged 4½ feet over the weir. The block system of irrigation which was introduced for a period of six years in the first instance was made more elastic and ordered to be extended for another six years, with additional facilities for raising crops on lands under the channels. The total area under the blocks is 11,435 acres, of which 9,268 acres are now under occupation. The area cultivated during the year was 7,316 acres, the largest on record. Out of the total demand of Rs. 78,743-7-2 inclusive of arrears, a sum of Rs. 74,629-6-7 was realized, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,114-0-7 at the end of the year. The extent under paddy rose from 3,236 acres to 4,707 acres with an average yield of ten pallas per acre.

14. Owing to the present financial stringency, Government have decided to defer action on the scheme relating to the conversion of the existing sub-taluks into taluks alluded to in my Address last year.

15. Orders have been passed regarding the lines on which re-settlement should be conducted in villages commanded by the Krishnaraja Sagara Channels. It has been decided that no departure from the established practice in such cases is necessary, and that the return for extra water which will in future be supplied from the channels may take the form of an additional percentage of increase in assessment in the case of lands only entitled to monsoon supply but which in future obtain water during the hot weather also, and that in regard to lands entitled to hot weather supply the increase should be restricted to what may fairly be due on account of the guarantee of supply in place of the uncertainty that prevailed before. It has also been decided that a proportionate rebate should be granted whenever such supply cannot be given for any reason.

16. The question of enhancing the remuneration of shanbhogs has been considered and it is proposed to assess

the potgi on the income of the *village* instead of the *firka* and also to increase the stationery allowance by 50 per cent. Orders may be expected early.

17. The Inam Commission appointed to consider and report on the various questions connected with the administration of inam villages and the reciprocal rights of inamdars and tenants, has submitted its report with a memorandum by two of its members suggesting some modifications in the proposals of the majority. Both the report and the memorandum deal with the questions referred to the commission in an exhaustive and practical manner and Government hope that the completeness of the information collected and the ability with which it has been considered will enable them to settle this thorny problem with satisfaction.

Revenue Survey and Inam.

18. The introduction of revision settlement in the villages comprising the former Lakvalli Taluk has recently been notified and orders for the re-settlement of Magadi and Goribidnur Taluks are in course of issue.

The question of expediting the re-settlement operations long overdue in a large number of taluks has been receiving the serious attention of Government. It has been decided that the establishment under the Survey Superintendent should be strengthened so as to render it possible to re-settle at least four taluks a year, and arrangements are being made to obtain the loan of the services of a Settlement Officer from the Bombay Government for a period of three years for settlement work in the State. An officer of our Survey Department is about to be sent on deputation to the Bombay Presidency to be trained in up-to-date systems of re-survey and settlement.

Excise.

19. The re-organization of the Excise Department was long overdue as the scale of establishment had practically remained stationary since 1903 although the work had increased enormously and the revenue more than doubled. In view of the unfavourable financial situation, however, only a part of the re-organization absolutely necessary in the interests of efficient administration could be taken up. The revision sanctioned relates chiefly to the scale of establishment of the District Excise Offices and the improvement in the pay and prospects of the subordinate executive, ministerial and menial staff of the department, at an extra cost of about Rs. 50,000 per annum.

The number of excise shops was reduced by 92, the strength of arrack having been reduced from 30° to 35° U. P. while the duty thereon was enhanced, at the same time, to Rs. 6 per gallon in the Bangalore City and to

Rs. 5-4-0 in other parts of the State. Despite these measures, the excise revenue has shown a remarkable increase, reaching the record figure of Rs. 77,81,000 as against Rs. 70,65,000 in the previous year.

The Excise Licensing Boards in Bangalore and Mysore Cities and the Kolar Gold Fields, which had been continued on a temporary basis since 1917, were made permanent.

Forests.

20. In order to ensure the prompt supply of fuel to the Iron Works at Benkipur when they should be ready to start operations, two Forest Divisions—Tarikere and Benkipur—were formed during the year. The work of collection was started in April last and about 26,000 tons of fuel have been cut and 3,000 tons brought to the tram lines. Owing to the rise in the exchange value of the rupee and the unsettlement of the market for tanned hides, there was a large decline in the demand for tanning bark, resulting in great loss to bark merchants who had bid heavily for the leases for bark in anticipation of renewed activity in the trade consequent on the withdrawal of Government control. In order to prevent serious loss to the contractors, Government, after a careful consideration of the situation, postponed all collection during the year and further granted a rebate of 15 per cent of the total rent involving a remission of over 2¾ lakhs of rupees. The aggregate collections during the year under all heads amounted to Rs. 43,39,004.

21. To give effect to the policy of developing the economic resources of our forests, as foreshadowed in my Address last year, a Forest Economist was appointed. A beginning has been made in the examination of about 60 square miles of the Hassan Ghat forests by way of commencing a regular economic survey of our forests. About 12 samples of Ghat timbers have been converted into sleepers, rafters, and planks and are being air-and water-seasoned. The installation of a dry kiln for the rapid seasoning of inferior and less durable timbers is under consideration, and the bark and leaves of likely forest trees are being subjected to chemical analyses with a view to determine their value as tanning materials. It is also under contemplation to select and depute a suitable officer to America for training as a Forest Engineer.

22. As the arrears in regard to Forest Settlement have been fully worked out with the exception of only eight blocks, the appointment of the whole-time Forest Settlement Officer has been abolished, the remaining work being ordered to be attended to by the local Revenue Sub-Division Officers.

23. The relations between the several officers of the Forest Department and the Deputy Commissioners in the administration of forests were carefully defined with a view to ensure greater unity in the organization of the department, while at the same time, recognising the importance of consulting the Deputy Commissioners in regard to matters directly affecting the welfare of the raiyats.

Income Tax.

24. The Income Tax Regulation was passed by the Legislative Council and received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja in June last. Rules under the Regulation have been published and various notifications regarding exemptions from tax and investing officers with powers under the Regulation have also been issued. It may be mentioned that while in the adjoining Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, Tahsildars and Mamlatdars have been given the powers to call for returns and make assessments, in Mysore no officer below the rank of an Assistant Commissioner has been invested with such powers. For Bangalore and Mysore Cities, a special Collector of the grade of a Senior Assistant Commissioner has been appointed. An officer was placed on special duty for six months to attend to the preliminary work connected with the Regulation and he has since been invested with the powers of a Commissioner under the Regulation. The office of the Income Tax Commissioner will be combined with that of the Excise Commissioner when the special appointment ceases. Tax on salaries paid by Government is being recovered at the time of disbursement and arrangements have been made with local authorities, companies and public associations as well as with certain private employers to recover tax on the salaries of their employees. Steps are being taken to ascertain the particulars of business carried on in the State by foreign companies, and assess and recover the tax due on their income. The tax being new in Mysore, people have doubtless some difficulty in preparing the returns of their income during the first year of its levy. The department has instructions to render all reasonable help in the preparation of returns of income and generally to assist the public by explaining the principles and provisions of the Regulation and removing misapprehensions.

Protection.

Judicial.

25. The Special Magistrates' Courts established under the scheme for the separation of judicial and executive

functions in the districts of Bangalore, Shimoga, Mysore and Kadur, are reported to be giving satisfaction. With a view to obviate inconvenience to the litigant public in having, in some cases, to travel long distances for relief, action is being taken to invest Bench Courts in taluk head-quarters with powers to take cognizance of cases on complaint. It has not been possible, in view of the present financial stringency, to consider the question of the extension of the scheme to other districts this year. The system of trial by jury in sessions cases, introduced tentatively in the districts of Bangalore and Mysore, has been ordered to be continued till the end of June 1921. A new Munsiff's Court was established at Davangere with effect from July last. With a view to reduce the cost of litigation and expedite the administration of civil justice, Government have under consideration a proposal to enhance the small cause jurisdiction of Munsiffs and Sub-Judges.

Police.

26. The scheme sanctioned last year for the creation of posts of Assistant Superintendents of Police with a view to give relief to the Superintendents of the heavier districts was brought into force in Bangalore City and the Sub-Divisions of Chikballapur and Davangere. The appointment of an Assistant Superintendent of Police, Sagar, was kept in abeyance till the close of the year as the officer appointed thereto was retained at Santemarahalli in charge of the temporary Frontier Patrol Establishment for regulating the export of foodstuffs.

Government have acceded to the repeated request of the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board for the transfer of the jurisdiction over the Kolar Gold Fields Railway Police from the Superintendent of Police, Railways and C.I.D., to the Superintendent of Police, Kolar Gold Fields.

The Maharaja's Police Medal instituted last year was awarded for the first time during this Dasara to Tirumalaswami Naidu, a constable in the Special Reserve Police Force, for conspicuous gallantry shown in the arrest of a notorious criminal.

Military.

27. The Mysore Imperial Service Regiment and the Transport Corps whose distinguished services in the Field I narrated in detail last year, returned to Bangalore in February and were accorded a welcome in keeping with the splendid services they had rendered during the war. The Honourable the Resident, Mr. W. P. Barton, kindly presented the British decorations won by our gallant officers and men at a special levee held at the Residency on 2nd July 1920. His Highness was himself graciously pleased to present

to our officers and men who had rendered distinguished service at the front the Mysore Ganda Bherunda decorations at the Durbar on the 23rd instant. The extra men in these units have been ordered to be demobilized and liberal concessions have been sanctioned in awarding pensions and gratuities to the men discharged on demobilization. The Mysore Soldiers' Board has paid particular attention during the year to the question of affording medical relief to wounded soldiers, of providing educational facilities to the children of men employed in the army, and also to the distribution of financial aid to dependents of these individuals. The Board has taken over the administration of the Imperial Service Troops War Fund. Among the measures sanctioned with a view to enhance the amenities of military life, may be mentioned the erection of a Recreation Hall in the Imperial Service Transport Corps Lines, and the facilities for the revival of the game of polo in the Mysore Horse.

Medical.

28. The recommendations of the special committee appointed to consider the question of extension of medical relief have been generally approved and will be given effect to as soon as the financial situation improves. The conversion of the Shimoga District Hospital into a well-equipped and up-to-date institution capable of serving the malnad will be given the first attention in the five years' programme chalked out by the committee. A female dispensary at Davangere and another at Kallurkatte were sanctioned during the year.

The administrative control of the Epidemic Diseases Hospitals at Bangalore and Mysore has been ordered to be transferred to the Medical Department. A separate cadre for women medical officers and subordinates has been constituted. The establishments of the Krishnarajendra Hospital, Mysore, Minto Ophthalmic Hospital, Bangalore, the Maternity Hospitals at Mysore, Bangalore and Robertsonpet and of the Senior Surgeon's Office were revised.

Malnad Improvement.

29. The members will be glad to hear that in accordance with their representations, the Malnad Improvement Central Committee was re-organised and the defects in its constitution rectified. The heads of departments, whose co-operation is necessary in the formulation of schemes for malnad improvement, were made members of the Central Committee under the chairmanship of a Member of Government. Six non-official representatives, two from each of the malnad districts, were also appointed to the Committee which will hereafter meet once a quarter in one of the head-quarter towns of the malnad districts or at Bangalore,

as may be necessary. It is expected that the personal attention which a Member of Government will in future be able to pay to the improvement of the malnad with the direct co-operation of the heads of departments, will obviate the delays that were unavoidable under the old constitution of the Committee and ensure rapid progress. The District Committees were also re-organized so as to serve as subordinate agencies for carrying on the work under the directions of the Central Committee.

Progress, Moral and Material.

30. *Secondary Education.*—In accordance with the announcement made in my Address last year, fees have been abolished in Middle School classes in Government schools, and grants equivalent to the loss of fee income have been sanctioned to aided agencies who have adopted this system. With a view to provide suitable buildings for secondary schools, sanction has been accorded to the continuance of the allotment of two lakhs of rupees per annum for the next five years. A scheme of relieving teachers has been sanctioned to provide against the contingency of disturbance to regular work whenever permanent teachers go on leave. The S. S. L. C. Rules have been revised so as to permit candidates to appear for the examination by private study provided they had once appeared from any public institution. Rules regarding the recognition of aided secondary schools have been issued.

31. *Primary Education.*—Most of the existing Government primary schools were improved in respect of staff and accommodation and the scale of pay for primary schoolmasters standardized, based on the strength of the school. The compulsory education scheme has been introduced into all the 240 notified centres. A special committee was appointed to recommend type designs for school buildings and their report is now under the consideration of the Government.

32. *Women's Education.*—An Inspectress and five Assistant Inspectresses have been appointed for the inspection of girls' schools and orders have been issued for the appointment of an expert lady Technical Assistant to supervise Women's Industrial Education under the control of the Inspectress. With a view to obtain a larger number of women teachers, increased stipends have been sanctioned to private students and enhanced rates of acting allowances to substitutes for teachers under training. The Upper

Secondary classes attached to the Empress Girls' High School, Tumkur, and the Vani Vilas Institute, Bangalore, were abolished for want of adequate attendance.

33. *Education of Special Communities.*—To facilitate the inspection of the Hindustani schools in the malnad, the appointment of a third District Inspector for that area has been sanctioned and the entire jurisdiction of the Hindustani inspectorate re-adjusted. The inspectorate of girls' schools has been strengthened by the appointment of two Assistant Inspectresses for Hindustani schools. Boards of visitors have been constituted with a view to secure improvement in the efficiency of these schools. The whole scheme for the expansion of education among the depressed classes has been examined and the policy that Government propose to pursue in this matter laid down. It has been decided that it is far more useful to increase the number of rural panchama schools rather than concentrate panchama education in the boarding institutions which could, under any circumstances, only provide for a small minority. Instructions have been issued to open panchama schools wherever a minimum of 20 pupils can be secured, and the boarding institutions at Mysore, Tumkur and Chikmagalur are proposed to be developed to the fullest extent in order to provide teachers for the panchama schools in rural areas. The measure of throwing open all Government and aided schools to the depressed classes has, I am glad to say, proved a success on the whole, and I venture to express the hope that the advantages of intermingling with other communities which the members of this unfortunate community will obtain in the future will hasten their social improvement. Liberal scholarships have been sanctioned for panchamas studying in English schools.

Special attention was paid to the opening, maintenance, and equipment of schools for the military classes.

34. *Special Education.*—The syllabuses of commercial schools and examinations were revised and a Board for commercial education appointed.

Among the other measures sanctioned may be mentioned the revision of rules relating to hostels, the opening of Natural Science sections in certain high schools, the institution of stipends to private candidates undergoing training as teachers, the revision of the foreign scholarship rules, the re-organization of the Central Book Depot, the encouragement of the institution of private hostels, and the increase in the rate of certain scholarships.

Government have under their careful consideration the opinions received from the public on the memorandum on educational policy which was published last year. A comprehensive order on the memorandum and the opinions received thereon, indicating the principles on which the educational policy of the State will in future be based, is about to issue.

University.

35. The Mysore University has suffered a grievous loss in the death of Rajamantrapravina Mr. H. V. Nanjundayya, M.A., M.L., C.I.E., the first Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Brajendranath Seal, M.A., PH.D., Professor of Philosophy in the University of Calcutta has been appointed Vice-Chancellor and will take charge of his duties early in January next. Government feel confident that, under the guidance of this eminent educationist, the future development of the University on sound lines is assured.

A Faculty in teaching will be started from 1st July 1921, preparations for the same being made in the meantime. Eight lectures were delivered under the scheme of Extension Lectures in Mysore, Bangalore, Chikballapur and Hassan and a hostel was started for the students of the Engineering College. M.A. and B. Com. Examinations were held for the first time in the year. The results of all the examinations held by the University were fairly satisfactory, and out of the three candidates that came out successful in the M.A. Degree Examination in the English Language, two were ladies. The second Convocation of the University was held on the 10th October 1919 when His Highness the Chancellor presided and Sir Abdur Rahim, K.C.I.E., addressed the graduates. After the new Vice-Chancellor joins duty, Government propose to review the entire working of the University since its establishment, and lay down the lines of work in future.

Industries and Commerce Department.

36. Loans for industrial purposes to the aggregate value of Rs. 2,16,200 were sanctioned during the year. The Central Industrial Workshop turned out goods to the value of Rs. 1,66,000 and made experiments in the manufacture of new machinery. The manufacture of soap in the Government factory has proved a commercial success and applications for its transfer to private enterprise have been made to Government. In view of the fact that a number of questions connected with the development of the soap industry are still unsolved, Government have decided to keep it under their control for some time longer. The value of outturn in the factory during the year is estimated at

Rs. 1,09,353. The metal factory has also been doing very good work, having manufactured goods worth over a lakh and five thousand rupees. An extension of the factory has recently been sanctioned by Government. The art workshop gives promise of affording employment to a large number of workers. The Government weaving factory has steadily increased its output and its results appear to demonstrate the practicability of installing power looms driven by electricity in the homes of our weavers. Government have passed orders re-organizing the Home Industries Institutes at Bangalore and Mysore.

The commercial section was engaged in the compilation of statistics in connection with trade and commerce.

The Mysore Iron Works.

37. Dr. Smeeth was placed on special duty in connection with supplies of ore and flux for the Iron Works at Benkipur, the name of which has since been changed, under His Highness' orders, to Bhadrapuri. A Superintendent of mining operations was employed and preliminary work was carried on at the ore mine at Kemmangundi. About 220,000 cubic feet of excavations were made and 100,000 cubic feet of ores stacked. A detailed survey of the rope line which descends the side of the Kemmangundi gorge from the mines to the valley below along which the ore is proposed to be transported, has been completed and plans, etc., have been prepared for the whole line. Quotations for the plant have been received and are under the consideration of Government.

Two-feet Gauge Tramway lines aggregating a length of a little over 47 miles have been sanctioned in connection with the industry. Preliminary work is being pushed on, the outlay incurred on it during the year being about 4⅓ lakhs of rupees.

Orders for all the machinery, plate work, castings and structural materials have been placed taking advantage of the favourable exchange situation. A large portion of the plant has been received. The foundations for the blast furnace, hot-stoves, retorts and coolers have been completed. Plate work for all these has been erected and rivetted and the remaining works are in hand. It is expected that the construction works will be completed by about the close of 1921.

Sandal Oil Factories.

38. The factories took delivery of about 1,488 tons of sandalwood. There was good demand for oil but the profits were greatly affected by the rise in exchange. The position of the industry has been recently reviewed and the policy for its future development laid down.

Joint Stock Companies.

39. Six new joint stock companies were registered during the year and the total number of companies working at the end of the year was 95, their authorised and paid-up capitals having increased from Rs. 1,33,30,100 and Rs. 52,69,605, respectively, to Rs. 1,68,00,100 and Rs. 66,43,002, respectively. Of the more important new concerns that have since come into existence may be mentioned the Sri Krishnarajendra Cotton Mill, Mysore, which was started under the gracious patronage of His Highness the Maharaja.

Agriculture.

40. Good propagandist work was done by the department during the year, and 1,498 demonstrations were held and about 1,000 ploughs and 1,700 other implements sold to the public. An improved strain of seed ragi, obtained as a result of continued experiments at the Government farms, was distributed to raiyats and about 4,000 acres are reported to be under this crop during the year, permitting of a much larger expansion in the years to come. As a result of the efforts of the department, Red Mauritius and other high yielding varieties of cane have been planted on 1,500 to 2,000 acres of land. The use of commercial fertilizers and other manures is growing in popularity, and there is unmistakable evidence that our agriculturists are turning to the department for guidance and assistance as never before. Experiments were conducted at the Government farms and a bulletin on ragi cultivation, embodying the experience gained by the department during nine years of research and experiment, was published. The Pest Act was brought into force in two areas in the State for the control of *kole roga* in arecanut. No coercive measures were necessary and the results were highly successful, the disease having been entirely absent from the areas treated.

41. A Live-Stock Expert was appointed early this year, and a preliminary study of the cattle and sheep of the State has been completed by him. It will be his primary duty to investigate questions relating to the improvement of live-stock in the State and to submit proposals for the orders of Government. The control of the Civil Veterinary Department has been transferred from the Revenue Department to the Agricultural Department.

The length of the course in the Hebbal Agricultural School has been extended from two to three years in order that a more thorough training may be given to the men who are proposed to be recruited to strengthen the departmental staff.

42. Sericulture made good progress during the year, the area under mulberry having increased by over 10,000 acres. The increase was largest in the districts of Mysore, Kolar and Hassan, where large areas were planted with cuttings supplied by the department. The staff was strengthened by the employment of a Japanese expert who devoted special attention to experimental work. Government have recently sanctioned the extension of his services for a further term of two years. They have also been contemplating the employment of a Japanese lady expert to help in introducing foot-reeling as a cottage industry in the State. Recent efforts to introduce Mysore silk into France disclosed the necessity of establishing power-reeling if we should seek to obtain a footing for our silk in the markets of Europe. Government have sanctioned the establishment of a filature which will be set up as soon as the necessary plant can be obtained from Italy. The head-quarters of the Superintendent of Sericulture was transferred to Mysore, and the department was re-organized and placed under the control of the Director of Agriculture. *Sericulture.*

43. Special attention was paid to the consolidation of work in the existing societies and the development of non-credit forms of co-operation. Revised bye-laws were issued under the Co-operative Societies' Regulation, after consulting the Chief Court and eliciting public opinion. There were 1,402 societies with a membership of 92,679 and a working capital of Rs. 78 lakhs at the end of the year. The audit was separated from inspection work and has resulted in close and more frequent supervision. A sum of Rs. 20,000 has been advanced to the Weavers' Co-operative Societies, and arrangements have been made to supply about 200 pallas of select varieties of ragi to about 50 societies for cultivation under the expert supervision of the officers of the Agricultural Department. *Co-operation.*

His Highness the Yuvaraja graciously distributed the ten prizes instituted by him during the Provincial Co-operative Conference held last year, one to the best Industrial Co-operative Society, one to the best Agricultural Co-operative Society and the remaining eight to the best Credit Society in each district.

Technical Departments.

44. The total expenditure on public works from all sources during the year 1919-20 amounted to about *Public Works.*

Rs. 62 lakhs. The construction of the Krishnaraja Sagara Dam was proceeded with and the temporary weir gap was raised from +63 feet to +75 feet during the year. The turbine, high level irrigation, and scouring sluices on the north bank were also constructed. The members will be glad to hear that the extra storage of 12 feet renders it possible to give summer supply in the lower channels from January 1921. The top of the Dam on the south bank is at +107 feet and that on the north bank at + 100 feet. Statistics regarding the work on the low level channels and the allied works connected with Krishnaraja Sagara are given in Part II of the Address.

In order that an adequate return on the large capital outlay incurred on the Dam and allied works may be obtained as early as practicable, Government have sanctioned a few administrative changes so that effective steps may be taken for the inception and execution of channel extensions. The direct control of the Dam Construction Division has been placed under the Chief Engineer, Cauvery Valley Irrigation, thus setting free the Superintending Engineer, whose head-quarters has been removed to Mysore, to attend to the estimates and preparation of projects necessary for the further development of irrigation above and below the reservoir.

It is proposed to investigate the scheme of a reservoir across the Bhadra at Lakkavalli and also of one across the Kumudwati at Anjanapur in the Shimoga District. Administrative sanction has been accorded to a scheme for improving the water-supply of Mysore City at a cost of about 15 lakhs of rupees which will be taken up as funds become available. The existing circles of superintendence were reorganized during the year and their jurisdiction revised so as to make them geographically compact and administratively efficient. The project subdivisions which were formed two years ago for the preparation of irrigation projects were abolished and the scale for draftsmen revised under a provincial cadre. Government consider that the establishment in the Public Works Department can be curtailed in view of the contraction of work and propose to issue orders soon re-organizing the department to suit present conditions.

45. The work on the 6th Installation at Sivasamudram is well in hand and an outlay of Rs. 1,56,000 was incurred on it up to the end of June 1920. It is expected that the extension of the Generating Station will soon be completed and it will be ready to receive the new

4,000 H.P. Generator as soon as it arrives. The new Transformer Station at Bangalore was completed and brought into use in June 1920, and the electrification of the pumping plant at Soldevanhalli was executed two months before. The net earnings of the Cauvery Power Scheme during the year were about Rs. 9,96,000 representing a return of about 8 per cent on capital outlay. It is gratifying to note that in the city of Bangalore, the total day-load which comprises mainly of power-load, is in excess of the night demand which represents chiefly the lighting-load. This is an indication that the advantages of electric drive for industrial purposes are becoming more and more recognised.

Railways.

46. As a result of the resumption of the Nanjangud-Bangalore and Birur-Shimoga sections, the work of the Railway Department has increased largely, the total open mileage worked by the State agency at present being 372 miles. 74·99 miles of metre gauge lines, and 57·10 miles of 2-feet gauge tramway are also under construction. The provision of additional rolling stock has become a measure of urgent importance, while, at the same time, owing to the industrial conditions prevailing abroad, it is very difficult to secure adequate supplies. The Mysore-Arsikere Section has been able to show a slightly enhanced return compared to that obtained last year owing to the running of an additional shuttle train between Mysore and Hole-Narsipur. A reorganization of the Traffic Department resulting in the formation of two Traffic District Offices has been sanctioned, as the concentration of administrative and executive work relating to the department in the Traffic Manager was not satisfactory. The Railway Audit Department has also been re-organized and in view of heavier working expenses, the 3rd class passenger fares on the State Railways have been raised to the standard prevailing on other Railways.

47. The experience gained in working the State Railways has disclosed a number of defects in the present administrative arrangements of the Railway Department. It has become necessary to relieve the Agent from his duties as Secretary to Government, in order that he may have more time at his disposal for inspection work and also bring to early completion the lines under construction. It has also been found possible to combine the offices of Carriage and Loco Superintendents under a single head; and these and other administrative changes, with a view to effect economy in railway administration, have recently been sanctioned and will soon be brought into effect.

Geological.

48. The re-organization of this department to which I referred in my Address last year, was brought into effect. It is expected that the administrative arrangements sanctioned will enable a more thorough investigation of the mineral possibilities of the State, while, at the same time, the completion of the geological survey will receive adequate attention and be carried on systematically. The Department of Mines and Explosives now placed under the control of the Chief Inspector of Mines has entirely been separated from that of Geology.

49. A committee which was appointed to go into the whole question of exploitation of minerals in the State submitted detailed recommendations in regard to the alterations that might be made in the prospecting and mineral licenses in use, and suggested several modifications in the existing rules. Government have passed orders on their recommendations and have laid down a definite policy calculated to encourage the development of mineral resources by private enterprise, while keeping efficient control in the hands of Government. In order to encourage *bona fide* local private enterprise, the members will be glad to hear that Government have laid down that, other things being equal, natives of Mysore by birth or domicile should be preferred in the issue of licenses and that in special cases notifications should be issued calling for applications from such persons for specified minerals.

Pending further investigation as to the requirements of local industries and the available supplies of material, specific ores and minerals have been ordered to be reserved for Government purposes and no applications will ordinarily be entertained in respect of them.

50. The total output of bar gold during the year was 488,056 ounces, of the approximate value of Rs. 2,55,87,970 compared with 487,484 ounces of the value of Rs. 2,51,11,749 in 1918-19. The amount of royalty payable to Government during 1919-20, is approximately Rs. 14,10,661 as against Rs. 14,30,480, paid in 1918-19.

Local Self-Government.

Local Boards.

51. The development of economic work in the districts which was hitherto being attended to by District and Taluk Progress Committees, has been transferred during the year to the District and the Taluk Boards, and the bill to amend the Local Boards and Village Panchayets

Regulation in this respect is under consideration. Rules for the levy of tolls by Local Boards have been issued. Most of the local bodies have elected non-official Vice-Presidents, and rules defining their duties have been framed. In order to ensure better progress in the sinking of drinking water wells which are urgently required all over the State, the contribution leviable from the raiyats was reduced from one-half to one-third, and in the case of depressed classes and in emergent instances, work was ordered to be done at the cost of Government.

Municipal.

52. Dewan Bahadur Rajasabhabhushana K. P. Puttanna Chetty, C.I.E., retired from his appointment, as Honorary President of the premier municipality in the State, after holding the office for seven years. The excellent work which was done in the municipality during the period of his office under his able guidance and control is well known to you all. The Town municipal councils at Tumkur and Kolar were given the privilege of electing their own Presidents. The election rules for Town municipal councils were modified. I shall advert later on to the action that has been taken with a view to regularize and develop the resources of local bodies by Government.

Minor Departments.

Muzrai.

53. The members will be interested to hear that the available surpluses at the credit of various muzrai institutions have been consolidated and formed into a fund called the General Muzrai Fund which will be invested and the interest accruing therefrom utilised for the benefit of muzrai institutions and also for other purposes not inconsistent with the object of the original endowment. It has been calculated that these surpluses amout to Rs. 5,00,920 consisting of securities and cash from which an annual interest of Rs. 20,313 is expected. A sum of Rs. 10,000 out of this fund will in future be set apart for special improvements to muzrai institutions by way of supplementing the annual Government grant of Rs. 10,000; Rs. 7,820 will be utilised towards the cost of a special engineering establishment; and the balance for the institution of a few central schools for teaching the meaning and method of temple worship. Orders have also been issued for the formation of another fund called the Muzrai Establishment Fund to meet the charges of the establishment engaged in muzrai work in various offices of the State, the details of which will be found in Part II of the Address.

Archæology.

54. Orders were passed on the recommendations of the committee appointed to report on the measures necessary for the better preservation of the ancient monuments in the State. The members are aware that the State is rich in monuments of great historical and archæological interest worthy of careful preservation for the benefit of the future generations. Some attention was bestowed in the past on the restoration and repairs of a few of the Hoysala structures but a great deal still remains to be done specially in the direction of systematic inspection of the monuments with a view to prevent them from falling into ruins. The committee have proposed a list of 163 monuments worthy of careful preservation all of which will in future be inspected annually by the Revenue Sub-Division Officers, the more important among them being also visited every year by the Director of Archæological Researches. Provision has been made for the annual maintenance as well as special repairs that may be needed for their conservation. Government have also in contemplation the enactment of a special law for the protection of ancient monuments on the lines of the Government of India Act VII of 1904.

Census.

55. The sixth decennial census of Mysore will be taken on the night of 18th March 1921 synchronously with the rest of India. A Superintendent of Census has been appointed and the census divisions have been constituted. The first part of the Mysore Census Code was issued, and house-numbering, and the final constitution of the census divisions are now in progress. In view of the public interest evinced in industrial conditions in recent years, an endeavour will be made in the forthcoming census to pay increased attention to the collection of statistical and general information bearing on the industrial and economic side of the life of the people.

Programme of Work.

56. I have concluded a brief survey of the more important facts in the administration of the State during the past year and you will no doubt expect me to indicate, in a general way, in accordance with precedent, the work before us. It may be conveniently grouped under three distinct heads :—(1) Improvement in the efficiency of the administration, (2) Development of the resources of the State, (3) Increasing the efficiency and promoting the well-being of the people.

I. Improvement in the Efficiency of the Administration.

57. The importance of having a carefully considered system of office procedure in Government offices as an indispensable condition of efficient administration has always been recognised by Government. The Efficiency Audit staff of the General and Revenue Secretariat has, for several years past, been engaged in preparing manuals of office procedure with a view to systematise and co-ordinate work in offices and also in inspecting Government offices whenever required in order to correct and minimise errors in procedure. The policy that dictated the appointment of the Efficiency Audit Officer has been vindicated in the report of the Government of India Secretariat Procedure Committee on which the orders of the Government of India were announced the other day. The Committee strongly recommend the appointment of an officer called the Inspector of Office Procedure with duties more or less similar to those assigned to the Efficiency Audit Officer. The reports of the Efficiency Audit Officer have revealed the primary importance of establishing a uniform system of recruitment for public offices, if any permanent improvement in their work should be secured. The Secretariat Procedure Committee also recommend that such recruitment should be made through the agency of a Central Board called the 'Staff Selection Board' specially constituted for the purpose. It stands to reason that a Board can more easily establish closer relations with all sources of recruitment than any head of a single department to whom this is always a troublesome responsibility as he lacks the necessary machinery. It is likely that a more adequate representation of all communities in public offices can be secured, if the recruitment is made by means of a Central Board rather than by heads of departments acting independently of one another. A further advantage which will be secured by such a system is that salaries for similar ministerial work in all departments can by this means be made more or less uniform which is not the case at present. Without committing themselves to any definite course of action, Government propose to examine whether the system of recruitment that will in future be adopted in the offices in the Government of India may not with advantage be adopted in our Government offices also.

(i) The Institution of a Central Board for the Recruitment of the staff of Government Offices.

58. The offices of Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department and the Chief Engineer have always been combined in Mysore as they have been in British India. The Public Works Department is one of our largest

(ii) Relieving the Chief Engineer of his duties as Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

spending departments and the disadvantage of burdening the head of this department with office work necessitated by his secretarial duties to the detriment of his inspection work cannot fail to strike any one. The Public Works Re-organization Committee which was appointed by the Government of India a few years ago condemns the present practice and recommends a separation of these duties now combined in a single officer. Instances have frequently come to the notice of Government within the last year or two clearly pointing to the fact that greater scrutiny of the expenditure of public funds in the department can be secured and a more adequate return on the money spent can be expected if the head of this department is relieved of his secretarial functions. I have already mentioned that the Agent of the Mysore Railways will also be relieved of his duties as Secretary to Government. It is proposed to combine the secretarial duties under Railways and Public Works in one officer, and Government have selected for this post Mr. Dove Wilson who has considerable experience of both Railways and Public Works and who is not a stranger to Mysore. I may also mention that it will be a part of Mr. Dove Wilson's duty to investigate at once into the entire railway administration of the State and suggest such changes as may be necessary.

(iii) Re-organization of the Industries and Commerce Department.

59. The Industries and Commerce Department is in urgent need of re-organization. You are aware that the work relating to this department is a "Transferred" subject in British India and it has been stated by a high authority that the Department of Industries will be "the severest test of the new constitution." The difficulty lies in devising measures suited to our peculiar industrial conditions and intended to be carried out by a Government agency not suited for work on business lines. The ability to initiate and manage large industrial concerns is not easily acquired and it is more difficult of acquisition at the present time owing to the growing demands of labour complicating all questions relating to industrial enterprise. The experience gained in working the department during the past few years points out certain defects in organization which will be put right at an early date.

(iv) Improvement in the efficiency of Local Administration.

60. An improvement in the resources of our local bodies is a crying necessity, for it is obvious that their efficiency is hampered by their poverty. Both our municipalities and district boards are in a condition of chronic impecuniousness and no improvement in local administration

can be hoped for until fresh avenues for developing their resources are opened out to them.

An examination of the present system of municipal taxation, for instance, discloses that it is really based on orders issued during the days of the Chief Commissioners and has no relation to the Municipal Regulation under which the administration is purported to be carried on. Moreover, there is a marked tendency in even the premier city municipalities of the State to depend on Government grants for the satisfaction of even their primary wants. The income obtained from water and lighting taxes, for instance, in Bangalore and Mysore Cities, is totally inadequate to meet the actual expenses. In one of his addresses to this Assembly, Sir M. Visvesvaraya said: "It is important that the people should be emancipated from the habit of petitioning Government for every small want and every petty grievance." It seems to be equally important to emancipate our local bodies from this unhealthy dependance on Government for the satisfaction of wants that should be a legitimate charge on local resources.

All that I have said above regarding municipalities is equally true of district boards. The whole position of these local bodies was reviewed in detail during the past year and the directions in which fresh sources of income may be tapped have been indicated. The revenue from the mohatarfa tax which has been made over to the boards is capable of expansion. Again, the direct taxes in municipalities are capable of revision. While the indirect taxes such as octroi and tolls have largely increased amounting at present to 56% of the annual municipal income, the direct taxes on buildings, etc., have remained stationary for several years past. Government hope, in future years, municipalities and district boards will be largely self-supporting in the satisfaction of their primary wants.

II. The Development of the Resources of the State.

61. The State is fortunate in possessing a most carefully elaborated system of irrigation by tanks the capitalised value of which is estimated at over 7 crores of rupees. But no satisfactory methods have yet been devised to maintain this valuable property in an efficient condition. By the ancient custom of the country it is the duty of raiyats holding lands under irrigation tanks to maintain them in an efficient condition, and although the obligation has not been questioned, it has never been satisfactorily discharged.

(i) Care and maintenance of our Irrigation Works.

In 1866, the late Mr. Bowring, then Chief Commissioner, said: "Of late years the raiyats have silently ignored their obligations and the whole duty and cost of repairing tanks both in regard to the requisite labour and material have fallen on Government." But it was manifestly impossible for Government to undertake the petty annual repairs of over 26,000 tanks scattered all over the State and the raiyats' liability was re-imposed by the issue of rules in 1873 which are practically in force to-day. There has, however, been great difficulty in enforcing them owing to the decline of the communal spirit, the absenteeism of landlords and the absence of any penalty for non-performance. Various methods have been tried in recent years either by way of commuting the liability by the imposition of an acreage cess or of attempting to revive the communal spirit by the formation of village statutory bodies under the Tank Panchayet Regulation. None of the measures has proved successful so far. Government have endeavoured during the year to provide a solution the chief features of which are the contribution by Government of the cost of half the repairs by remission of the Irrigation Cess to the villages that discharge this duty satisfactorily, the imposition of a penalty equivalent to double the cost of maintenance in the case of defaulting raiyats, and the delegation of this duty to Village Improvement Committees wherever Tank Panchayets have not been formed. I would earnestly request the members of this Assembly to afford their full and hearty co-operation in giving a trial to the rules now framed; for, I am sure you recognise that the agricultural prosperity of our State greatly depends on the careful preservation of its invaluable irrigational assets.

(ii) Relations of the State with the Indian Institute of Science.

62. The report of the Chemical Services Committee proves the urgent importance of establishing Chemical Research Institutes if Government should desire to promote industrial enterprise under our present conditions in India. The committee recommend the constitution of an All-India Chemical Service and the establishment of Research Institutes under provincial control in various parts of the country together with an Imperial Institute with advisory functions under the Government of India. The governing body of the Indian Institute of Science has also come to the conclusion that a change in the main object with which it was originally established, namely, that of providing a post-graduate University training, is called for by the present trend of conditions in India. Government are naturally keenly interested in these questions and have

under their consideration the changes in their relations with the Indian Institute of Science which they will submit for the decision of the Government of India when the question of the future constitution of the Institute comes up before them for consideration.

63. (*a*) *The Bank of Mysore.*—During the early part of this year the Government appointed a committee presided over by the First Member of Council to consider and report the directions in which the work of the Bank of Mysore may be improved. Since its establishment seven years ago the Bank has made steady progress but the resources at its disposal are not adequate for meeting the growing demands of business and a large portion of the trade of the State is still untouched. There was also a gradual decrease in the ratio of capital and reserve to deposits which were expanding rapidly, and no action had been taken in regard to the transfer of Treasury work to the Bank as contemplated at the time of its establishment. Government have recently passed orders on the recommendations of the committee. The policy that dictated the establishment by Government aid of a private banking institution in the State has been abundantly vindicated in the signal assistance which the Bank of Mysore has rendered in the flotation of the recent loan, and Government expect that, after the measures now sanctioned are brought into force, the Bank will gain in prestige and financial standing and will be of even greater assistance in developing the resources of the State.

(iii) Financial facilities to Trade and Industry.

64. (*b*) *The Co-operative Movement.*—Government have recently announced the appointment of a committee on co-operation. The co-operative movement has caught on in Mysore quite as effectually as in other parts of India so that we have at present 1,400 societies serving 92,600 members with a working capital of Rs. 78 lakhs. But there are certain unsatisfactory features about it which the Government would be glad to have examined by an expert committee. The movement has not thriven in the malnad part of the State which is probably in greater need of an agency for cheap credit than the maidan and associations for other than credit purposes have hardly succeeded anywhere. Even in regard to the work done in the field of credit it was revealed in an investigation of the affairs of 350 societies that the financial indebtedness of the members had undergone no change except that half of it was transferred from the sowcar to the society and that their assets had increased by 16 per cent. Government have been

fortunate in securing as Chairman of the committee one of the well-known members of the Committee on Co-operation appointed by the Government of India a few years ago.

III. Increasing the Efficiency and Promoting the Well-being of the People.

65. I have already explained that the educational measures the Government propose to adopt with a view to increase the efficiency of the people will be dealt with in the order on the Educational Memorandum which will soon be published and I have also dealt with the revision in the constitution of the Malnad Improvement Committee in order to ensure due attention to the problems presented by that part of the State. The only other matters to which a brief allusion may be made under this head are (1) the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes and (2) the problems of City Improvement.

(1) Amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes.

66. The question of improving the condition of the depressed classes was very ably discussed at the Birthday Session of the Representative Assembly and also at one of the meetings of the Economic Development Board. As you will easily recognise, the question is not free from difficulties. There is no doubt that some sort of State action is called for as the depressed classes, in their present condition, are incapable of self-help and it is impossible to expect any private agency to co-ordinate the work of a number of Government departments whose active sympathy and support are essential if any real improvement is to be effected in their condition. But it will not do to minimise the danger of unsettling the minds of a large community and withdrawing its members from the work they are now accustomed to without, at the same time, providing them with avenues of employment suited to their roused aspirations. In any case, the problem of ameliorating the condition of nearly one-sixth of our population at present sunk in poverty and ignorance is far too stupendous a task to be tackled even by a Government agency however well-equipped. The question as to the best lines on which this might be attempted has recently been referred to a committee whose report will be earnestly awaited by Government.

(2) Problems of City Improvement.

67. *(a) In Bangalore.*—Government have reviewed in detail the work done in connection with the city improvement in Bangalore since the constitution of the first Improvement Committee in 1889. A sum of over Rs. 52 lakhs has been spent in Bangalore in providing

the city with drinking water, electric lighting, in measures relating to drainage and in laying out its extensions. New problems have arisen with the advent of new conditions consequent on the growth of the city in size, population and importance. Government have indicated the new improvements urgently needed which are estimated to cost about Rs. 13 lakhs to finance which a grant of Rs. 3 lakhs per annum has been sanctioned. The Improvement Committee has been re-constituted in order to carry out this programme. The city has never been provided with a proper drainage system. A comprehensive scheme, capable of being taken up in sections and estimated to cost in the aggregate about 18¼ lakhs of rupees, has been prepared. Government have promised to pay half the cost of the scheme provided the balance required is found by the Municipal Council. The entire system of water-supply, which was laid out over 25 years ago, requires renovation and extension. An expert committee has been appointed to go into the whole question and submit a report.

(*b*) *In Mysore.*—The improvement of the Mysore City commenced with the establishment of a Special Sanitary Division under the late Mr. Standish Lee in 1892. A sum of Rs. 52 lakhs has also been spent in Mysore up to date in the acquisition of properties in congested areas, in sewerage and drainage works, laying out of extensions, water-supply and model house building. Still, it cannot be said that the sanitary condition of the capital city is all that can be desired. The sewerage and drainage works are not yet complete and sufficient attention has not been paid to house connection. All the population displaced in consequence of the acquisition of properties has not been provided with houses. The construction of new houses in order to avoid over-crowding is an urgent necessity. The further improvements required are divided into two classes, productive and non-productive, the former to be financed by means of loans and the latter out of an annual State grant of Rs. 4½ lakhs.

68. With a view to enable the cities to carry out their productive works and to solve the housing problem, it is absolutely necessary that the two premier municipalities should evolve some means of raising loans from the general public. Government have indicated that they are prepared to consider any workable scheme involving a reasonable contribution from State funds to bridge the difference between the rate of interest at which they have to borrow and the rate they charge for their loans. The great example

which has recently been set by Bombay is likely to be largely copied by the other leading cities in India and Government earnestly trust that the local authorities responsible for the administration of our two premier municipalities will not be slow to appeal to the civic patriotism of their moneyed classes to finance schemes of local importance.

Conclusion.

69. I have now placed before you the most salient features of the past year's administration and some of the more important questions now demanding your attention. The march of events elsewhere has begun to affect us in a manner to which we were not accustomed before the war and it is therefore of vital importance to us to organize and strengthen our social and economic fabric so as to be able to rely more and more on our own resources and be less at the mercy of these unknown factors. The violent convulsions through which society has passed in many parts of the world—though we have been fortunately free from their direct effects—the breaking up of class privileges and distinctions, and an increasing political consciousness have made the demand for equality of opportunities more and more insistent throughout the world and the problem of the advancement of the relatively backward classes without in any way affecting the progress of the community as a whole is the one that is pressing itself for solution everywhere and is also engaging our most anxious consideration. Political reforms of a far-reaching character are in the process of introduction in British India and the whole political atmosphere is in a state of violent disturbance through various causes. These changes do not at present directly affect us, our conditions being so different. In all questions of imperial policy that may involve the interests of the State, the powers of His Highness the Maharaja to safeguard them remain unaffected. With us, there is no cleavage between official and non-official interests and there is already considerable association of the non-official element in the ordinary administration. Subject to certain limitations, imposed by the nature of our constitution, His Highness the Maharaja has been graciously pleased to give the people ample opportunities to place their views before his Government on all important legislative, fiscal and administrative measures and to take a considerable part in

the administration. It is for you to take full advantage of these opportunities, to make yourselves more and more responsible for local affairs, to strengthen the foundations of the existing assemblies and councils, and qualify yourselves for an increased share in the administration. The financial situation also needs at present your earnest co-operation. The increasing demands of a progressive administration and the policy we have adopted of a large expansion in education and providing assistance to the people in the development of agriculture and industries, have made the problem one of the greatest difficulty at a time when our resources have been affected by causes over which we have no control. You will appreciate the complexity, the importance and the gravity of the various economic, social and other problems that Government are called upon to solve and I feel confident that I am not appealing in vain to your patriotism and public spirit when I ask you to co-operate in carrying out the beneficent intentions of our beloved Ruler for the advancement of his people and the improvement of the administration of his State.

M. KANTARAJ URS,
Dewan of Mysore.